

Deep River WPCA Regular Meeting February 5th, Minutes

Call to order: Chair MacKenzie called this meeting to order @ 7:30 pm.

Members in attendance: MacKenzie, Reyer, Eckenroth, and new member Peter Knox.

New Member: Peter Knox is the latest member of the Authority. Peter is a Veteran of the U.S. Army and has had a 28-year career in Banking.

Audience: Ely, Lewis, First Selectman Carol Jones.

Acceptance of Minutes: Upon Motion by MacKenzie, seconded by Rehyer and carried unanimously, the January 2024 minutes were accepted as presented.

Plant Operations:

Ely presented the Operations Report. The Facility is in good operating condition.

Financial Reporting: The budget is in good order. The shortfall in the replacement line remains. Lewis remedied the Comcast billing challenge; this line will have a minor shortfall.

New Business: WPCA Member Bud Eckenroth, who also serves as the Deep River Board of Finance Chair, requested payment from the WPCA to the Town General Fund to cover debt service. MacKenzie reminded Eckenroth that the “Isolation of WPCA Assets” mandate, which the Town Attorney recently explained at a joint commission meeting, is a financial safeguard that protects CT WPCAs from the uncertainties of year-to-year municipal budget challenges. Lewis added that the recovery of debt service was never discussed when the sewer expansion projects were initially proposed. Each WPCA expansion project was vetted at Public Hearings and approved by voters at Special Town Meetings.

MacKenzie gave a brief overview of WPCA cooperation; in FY 05-06, the town requested and was granted emergency financial assistance from the WPCA as substantial cost overruns in the Deep River Elementary School renovation project ballooned exponentially and drove town finances to near default.

Old Business:

MacKenzie restated that local and national trade journal articles note a critical challenge in hiring/ retaining highly skilled employees. By unanimous decision, the Authority approved a Salary Study to be conducted by Randi Frank LLC. Lewis projected the cost to be <3k.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Rehyer, seconded by Eckenroth and carried unanimously, this meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Lewis, Recording Clerk